

ABSTRACT

**TRAVELING VEHICLE SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING TRAVELING
BY TRAVELING VEHICLE SYSTEM**

A traveling vehicle recognizes the position of the vehicle, obtains the position of another vehicle by communication, sets a predetermined area including a branch section and a confluent section in a travel route to be a blocking area, and sets an area including the blocking area and larger than the blocking area to be an inter-vehicle distance control area. In the inter-vehicle distance control area, the traveling vehicle controls the speed by obtaining an inter-vehicle distance between the traveling vehicles from the position of another vehicle obtained by communication and the recognized position of the vehicle. Before entering the blocking area, the traveling vehicle requests permission to a controller and then enters the blocking area with the permission obtained. Narrowing the blocking area allows increase in the number of traveling vehicles which can pass through the blocking area per a period.

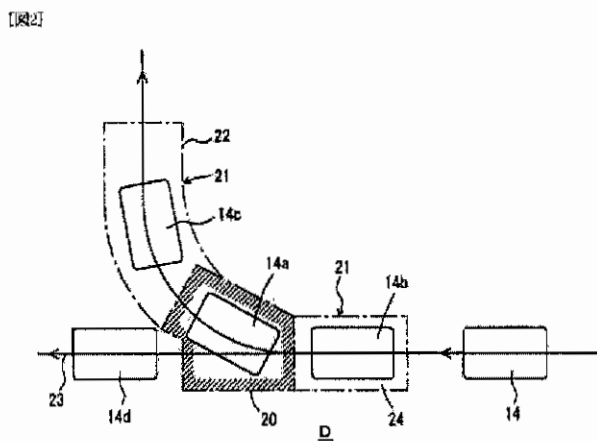


Figure 2